

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement for a sash window spring counterbalance arrangement of the type including a plurality of coiled ribbon springs, the modular spring support mounting arrangement being adapted to be fitted within a window jamb channel and to support and secure the springs within the window jamb channel; the modular spring support mounting arrangement comprising:

at least a first spring support mounting element and a second spring support mounting element, each for supporting a respective coil spring,

the first spring support mounting element including a pair of projections which extend normally from the spring support mounting element and are laterally spaced apart, and

the second spring support mounting element including an interengagement fitting which engages the pair of projections to in use securely interconnect the first and second spring support mounting elements together; and

at least one of:

the interengagement fitting and
projections

define and provide a support surface for one of the coiled ribbon springs.

2. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 14 in which the interengagement fitting comprises a dovetail cross section projection which is engaged between the laterally spaced wedged shaped cross section projections.

3. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 14 in which the interengagement fitting comprises a narrowed neck portion corresponding to a lateral spacing between the pair of laterally spaced wedge shaped cross section projections, and the narrowed neck portion is engaged between the pair of laterally spaced wedge shaped cross section projections to in use securely interconnect the first and second spring support mounting elements together.

4. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 1 in which the interengagement fitting comprises a pair of corresponding shoulder supports upon which the respective projections abut and are engaged.

5. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 4 in which each of the shoulder supports comprises a cradle corresponding to, and for, a respective wedged shaped cross section projection, and in which each of the shoulder supports further comprises a lip edge which hooks over an upper apex edge of the respective wedged shaped cross section projection fitted to vertically secure the wedge shaped cross section projections vertically within the shoulder support.

6. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 1 in which the interengagement fitting and pair of projections are adapted to engage and securely interconnect the first and second spring support mounting elements together by aligning the interengagement fitting and pair of projections and laterally sliding the spring support mounting elements relative to each other.

7. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 1 in which the interengagement fitting and pair of projections together define and provide a support surface for one of the coiled ribbon springs.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of installing a modular spring support mounting arrangement for a sash window spring counterbalance arrangement within a window jamb channel; the modular spring support mounting arrangement comprising at least a first spring support mounting element and a second spring support mounting element, the first and second spring support mounting elements including a corresponding interlocking arrangement to securely interlock the spring support mounting elements together, the interlocking arrangement comprises an interengagement fitting and corresponding projection; the method comprising the steps of:

a) inserting the first spring support mounting element into the window jamb channel,

b) laterally aligning the corresponding interlocking arrangement of the first and second spring support mounting elements, and

c) laterally sliding the second spring support mounting element relative to the first spring support mounting element to engage the interlocking arrangement and securely interlock the spring support mounting elements together within the window jamb channel such that at least one of the interengagement fitting and projection also define and provide a support surface for one of the coiled ribbon springs.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of installing a modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the step of, after inserting the first spring support mounting element into the window jamb channel, longitudinally sliding the first spring support mounting element within the window jamb channel to align the corresponding interlocking arrangement of the first and second spring support mounting elements.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of installing a modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the step of longitudinally sliding the first and second spring support mounting elements within the window jamb channel to a required mounting position along the length of the window jamb channel.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of installing a modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 9 in which the window jamb channel includes an access opening at a position along the length of the channel and further comprising the step of laterally inserting ~~which~~ the first and second spring support mounting elements through the opening into the window jamb channel.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A modular spring support mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 1 in which the pair of projections comprise a pair of wedge shaped cross section projections which are inwardly oppositely directed.